

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 FRB-01 USIA-15

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PRS-01 PA-02 DODE-00 AGRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6017

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: FLURRY OF STRIKES AND STRIKE THREATS

1. RECENT FLURRY OF STRIKES AND STRIKE THREATS, ARISING FROM VARIETY OF CAUSES, HAS SENT STRONG RIPPLES ACROSS TURKISH INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SCENE. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS PROCEEDED DURING 1976 WITH RELATIVE CALM AND USUAL NUMBER OF WORK STOPPAGES. REPORTEDLY, 884 AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED AND REGISTERED IN FIRST NINE MONTHS OF YEAR. PRESENT PHENOMENON SEEMS TO REFLECT HEIGHTENED NERVOUSNESS IN LABOR MARKET, PERHAPS INFLUENCED BY ELECTION ATMOSPHERE IN POLITICS.

2. AT NEW YEAR'S TIME TURKISH MINISTRY OF LABOR REPORTED 22,000 WORKERS ON STRIKE, ABOUT HALF OF WHOM WERE GARBAGE COLLECTORS IN ISTANBUL REFUSING TO WORK BECAUSE OF NON-PAYMENT OF WAGES AND BENEFITS. GARBAGE WORKERS RETURNED TO THEIR JOBS JANUARY 4 WHEN ISTANBUL MUNICIPALITY RAISED SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO MEET ARREARS IN PAY, BUT STRIKE

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COULD BE RESUMED IF CITY UNABLE MEET PAYROLLS. IN PAST WEEK, 16,000 WORKERS HAVE INITIATED WILDCAT STRIKE IN 19 MACHINERY AND CHEMICAL ENTERPRISES (MKE). FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND MINeworkers AT ZONGULDAK HAVE THREATENED WITHDRAW LABOR UNLESS CONCILIATION AWARD ACCEPTED BY MANAGEMENT, AND 5,600 AIRLINE WORKERS (HAVA-IS) HAVE EXPRESSED INTENTION TO STRIKE TURKISH AIRLINES (THY) OVER DISPUTE RE IMPLEMENTATION OF

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT. SEVERAL OTHER CASES INVOLVE LESS SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF WORKERS. GOT CAN ISSUE 30/60 DAY POSTPONEMENT ORDERS, AS HAS BEEN DONE IN STRIKE OF 6,000 WORKERS IN MEAT AND FISH CORPORATION AND WILL LIKELY BE DONE IF HAVA-IS DISPUTE WITH THY MATERIALIZES INTO ACTUAL WORK STOPPAGE.

3. MOST OF THESE ACTIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN STATE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES, INDICATING DEGREE OF MISMANAGEMENT AND/OR LETHARGY IN RESOLUTION OF COMPLAINTS AS THEY ARISE. MKE CASE, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE MORE SERIOUS RAMIFICATIONS AS IT INVOLVES ISSUE OF PROFIT SHARING IN STATE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES. ALTHOUGH AUTHORIZED BY LAW, DISTRIBUTION OF 10 PERCENT OF PROFITS IN SEES TO EMPLOYEES WAS HALTED THREE YEARS AGO BY APPLICATION NEW PERSONNEL PROCEDURES (EXCEPT FOR A LEW INSTANCES WHERE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS PROVIDED FOR PROFIT SHARING). ACTING ON HIS OWN, DIRECTOR OF MKE, WHO IS NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY MAN, RECENTLY DISTRIBUTED SHARES OF PROFITS OF ENTERPRISES UNDER HIS CONTROL, BUT RESTRICTED RECIPIENTS TO MANAGEMENT STAFF AND WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYEES FROM WHOM HE REPORTEDLY SOUGHT POLITICAL SUPPORT. BLUE COLLAR WORKERS CALLED STRIKE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR RIGHT TO SHARE AND HAVE EVOKED CONSIDERABLY SYMPATHY OUTSIDE, ESPECIALLY FROM SUCH GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AS POST AND TELEGRAPHS, AGRICULTURAL BANK AND OTHERS WHERE CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE SIMILAR "BONUS".

4. ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF REINTRODUCING PROFIT SHARING IN UNCLASSIFIED

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STATE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES MAY FORCE GOT TO ORDER RECOLLECTION OF PAYMENTS MADE IN MKE. MEANWHILE, HALIL TUNC, PRESIDENT OF TURK-IS (TURKISH CONFEDERATION OF LABOR) IS URGING MKE WORKERS TO RESUME WORK WITHOUT DELAY. HE NOTES THAT WORKERS ARE ABSOLUTLY IN THE RIGHT, BUT THEIR CASE IS NOT HELPED BY ILLEGAL STRIKE. DESPITE TUNC'S PROMISE TO FOLLOW UP VIGOROUSLY ON THE MATTER, THE MAIN UNION AMONG MKE WORKERS, YENI-METAL-IS (AN INDEPENDENT), SHOWS NO INCLINATION OF GIVING UP THE STRIKE. MACOMBER

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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